



*Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study*

## Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration, California

**Location:** Hamilton City and vicinity, Glenn County, California (U.S. House - Herger; U.S. Senate - Feinstein and Boxer)

**Purpose:** Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration

**Phase:** Feasibility Study

**Study Area:** The study area includes Hamilton City and the surrounding rural area. The study area is bounded by the Sacramento River to the east and the Glenn Colusa Canal to the west, and extends about 2 miles north and 6 miles south of Hamilton City. Hamilton City has a population of about 2,000 people.

During the last 20 years, extensive flood fighting of the “J” levee occurred in 1983, 1986, 1995, 1997, and 1998. The town of Hamilton City was evacuated during each event (twice in 1995). Currently, the Sacramento River is actively eroding into the toe of the levee at the northern end of the study area. Glenn County has constructed a backup levee, about 1,000 feet in length, to protect the community in the event that the toe erosion causes failure at the northern end of the “J” levee.

Native habitat and natural river function in the study area have been altered by construction of the “J” levee and conversion of the floodplain to agriculture and rural development. These alterations to the ecosystem have greatly diminished the abundance, richness, and complexity of riparian, wetland, and floodplain habitat in the study area and the species dependent on that habitat.

**Study Background:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and The Reclamation Board of the State of California (The Reclamation Board) began this Feasibility Study in July 2001 as part of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study. The purpose of the Feasibility Study is to develop and evaluate alternative plans that would reduce flood damages and restore the ecosystem along the Sacramento River near Hamilton City. Funding for the study has been provided by the Corps, The Reclamation Board, and the California Bay-Delta Authority Ecosystem Restoration Program. The study will end with the completion of a final integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) documenting the study findings. The report will be submitted to The Reclamation Board in the summer of 2004. The report is scheduled to be submitted to Congress before the end of December 2004.

The Feasibility Study Team worked closely with the Hamilton City Community Services District, Glenn County, local agencies, local landowners, environmental organizations, and several State and Federal agencies to conduct the study. The Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum helped facilitate open discussion between all interests. Two public workshops were held in Hamilton City to provide information on the study and solicit input from the public.

**Study Status:** An array of alternative plans was developed during the study in collaboration with Federal, State, and local interests. Alternative plans included various setback levee alignments with habitat restoration on the waterside of the levee. The alternative plans were compared, and a single plan was identified as the tentatively recommended plan.

The tentatively recommended plan would include constructing a 6.8-mile setback levee, removing most of the existing private "J" levee, and actively restoring about 1,476 acres of native vegetation (riparian, grassland, savannah and scrub habitats) waterside of the levee. The project would reduce economic damages from flooding by \$584,000 annually, would reduce the risk of flooding to the area, and provide up to a 90% confidence of passing the 75-year flood event. The setback levee would have varying heights and provide varying levels of flood damage reduction. Most of the existing "J" levee would be removed to reconnect the river to the floodplain, allow overbank flooding, and increase capacity in the Sacramento River. The project is estimated to cost \$43.8 million. A summary of cost sharing responsibilities is shown in the following table.

**Summary of Cost Sharing Responsibilities - Tentatively Recommended Plan<sup>1</sup> (\$1,000)**

Project Purpose	Federal	Non-Federal <sup>2</sup>
Ecosystem Restoration	25,520	13,741
Flood Damage Reduction	2,853	1,536
Cultural Resource Preservation	170	
Total	28,543	15,277
Breakdown of Non-Federal		
LERRDs		13,388
Cash		1,889
Total		15,277

<sup>1</sup> Based on October 2003 price levels, 5 5/8 percent rate of interest, and a 50-year period of analysis and preliminary cost allocation.

<sup>2</sup> Shared between the State and a local entity.

The alternative plans are described and the tentatively recommended plan identified in the draft Feasibility Report/EIS/EIR, which was made available for public and agency review in April 2004. A public workshop will be held on May 6, 2004, to provide information on the tentatively recommended plan and to collect comments that will be considered in the final Feasibility Report/EIS/EIR. The 45-day public review period of the draft report ends on May 24, 2004.

#### **Study Schedule:**

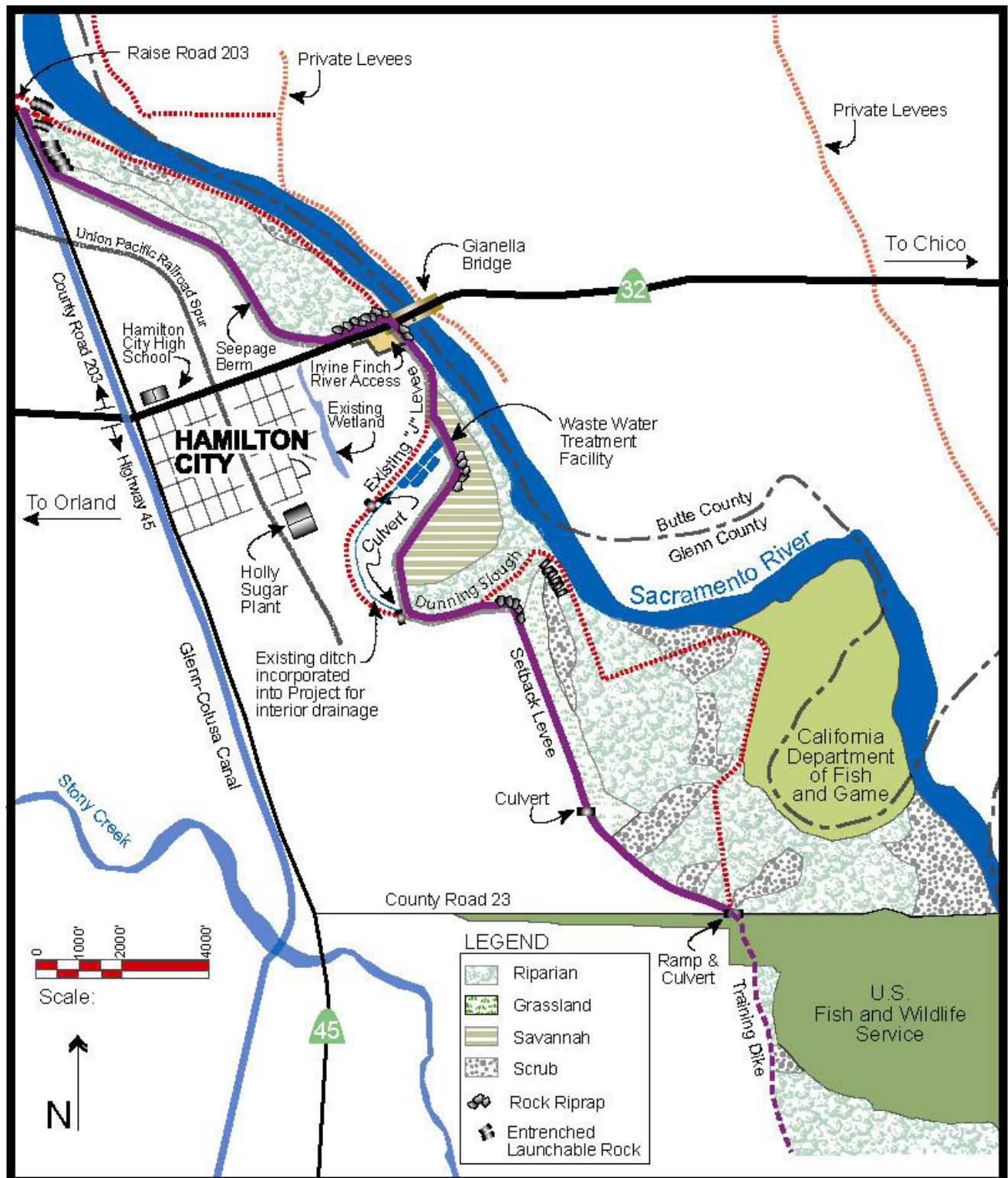
Public and agency review of the Draft Feasibility Report/EIS/EIR	April 9 – May 24, 2004
Public Workshop	May 6, 2004
The Reclamation Board decision	Summer 2004
Report to higher Corps authority	Summer 2004
Report to Congress	by December 31, 2004
Potential Start of Construction	2006

#### **For additional information about the study, please contact:**

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Information about the Hamilton City study can also be found on the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study website at [www.compstudy.org](http://www.compstudy.org).



Tentatively Recommended Plan